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Reports

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Russian Military Transformation - Goal In Sight? Strategic Studies Institute. Keir Giles and Andrew Monaghan. May 5, 2014.

The Russian Armed Forces have been undergoing major structural reform since 2008. Despite change at the most senior levels of leadership, the desired endstate for Russia's military is now clear; but this endstate is determined by a flawed political perception of the key threats facing Russia. The monograph reviews those threat evaluations, and the challenges facing Russia's military transformation, to assess the range of options available to Russia for closing the capability gap with the United States and its allies.

<http://www.strategicstudiesinstitute.army.mil/pubs/display.cfm?pubID=1196> [HTML format with a link to full text PDF file, 75 pages, 3.53 MB].

Item#2

Bipartisan Support for Increased U.S. Sanctions against Russia. Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. April 28, 2014.

As the Obama administration announces new economic measures against Russian officials and companies, the public supports increased U.S. economic and diplomatic sanctions by a 53% to 36% margin. But by roughly two-to-one (62% to 30%), Americans oppose sending arms and military supplies to the Ukrainian government.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/2014/04/4-28-14-Russia-Ukraine-Release.pdf> [PDF format, 11 pages, 540.31 KB].

Item#3

Sanctions Will Not Deter Russia, Concerned About Its Security Interests in Ukraine. YaleGlobal. David R. Cameron. May 1, 2014.

Ukraine concedes that its eastern part is in pro-Russian hands, and Russian buildup along the border continues. Russia's security concerns in Ukraine trump any discomfort over sanctions. Russia contends the removal of Ukraine's corrupt president defied constitutional limits that allowed replacement only in the case of death, ill health or impeachment. An April 17 agreement signed by Russia, U.S. and EU to disarm, release all illegally seized buildings, and start "broad national dialogue, with outreach to all of Ukraine's regions and political constituencies" has done little to defuse the crisis. The United States and Europe have applied a new round of sanctions on individuals and corporations. But diplomatic solution is unlikely, explains David R. Cameron, until Ukraine demonstrates willingness to pursue a true unity government.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/sanctions-will-not-deter-russia-concerned-about-its-security-interests-ukraine> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#4

The New Zealand Paradox. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Wayne Mapp. May 1, 2014.

The rise of China is profoundly altering the balance of power in the Asia-Pacific region, and this shift will accelerate as China's economy grows to rival that of the United States during the next two decades. This new era will challenge all the states within the region, most of whom have deep and growing economic

links with China, but also look to the United States as their principal security partner. New Zealand, along with Australia, is in this situation. The maintenance of peace and security in the Asia Pacific will require China and the United States to accommodate each other's legitimate interests. The other nations of the region have an abiding stake in seeing that this accommodation takes place. The report examines these issues and suggests the course that New Zealand should chart to ensure that its interests in the peace and stability of the Asia Pacific are maintained.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/140425_Mapp_NewZealandParadox_Web.pdf [PDF format, 96 pages, 4.24 MB].

Item#5

Promoting Peace in Myanmar. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Lynn Kuok. May 1, 2014.

Myanmar has made important progress toward democratic reform since President Thein Sein's civilian government came to power in early 2011. Significant challenges, however, remain and could scuttle efforts at change, says the author. Key among these are the peace process between the government and armed ethnic groups in the border regions; communal tensions in Rakhine state bordering Bangladesh and in central Myanmar; and the free and fair conduct of the 2015 general elections, which could also impact the peace process and communal relations. The report explores the United States' interests in peace in Myanmar and offers recommendations for how Washington can best promote it.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/140428_Kuok_PeaceMyanmar_Web.pdf [PDF format, 44 pages, 2.68 MB].

Item#6

Hitting Bottom: The Maliki Scorecard in Iraq. Center for Strategic & International Studies. Anthony H. Cordesman. May 1, 2014.

Iraq is on the edge of civil war, and its election does not seem to offer any clear prospect of producing national unity or an effective leader. As a result, there is natural focus on Iraq's growing violence and political divisions, but this is only part of the story. The author has developed a summary report on these challenges using data from the World Bank, the United Nations, and Transparency International.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://csis.org/files/publication/140501_Iraq_Hitting_Bottom_Revised.pdf [PDF format, 28 pages, 1.24 MB].

Item#7

Jihad in Nigeria: Past Lives On. YaleGlobal. Lamin Sanneh. April 29, 2014.

Boko Haram, a Salafist extremist group continues to terrorize northern Nigeria in a quest for a strict Islamist state. A bomb killed 75 in Abuja, April 14, followed the next day by the kidnapping of more than 200 girls from a school in Chibok. The group's Arabic name suggests intention to wage jihad. But

violence and coercion belie the meaning of jihad, a struggle against unbelief, mainly within Islamic community and the individual. Religious and political leaders have long condemned the practice for devastating so many lives, complicating foreign policy and directing global ire toward Islam. Sanneh outlines the history of jihad in West Africa during the 19th century. Extremists engage in tiresome competition to impose illogical limits for society rather than meet the challenges of good governance. Even early jihadists agreed that coercion, using religion to mask the extremists' raw quests for control, is corrupt and reprehensible.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/jihad-nigeria-past-lives> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#8

Is Brazil Losing Global Momentum? YaleGlobal. Alistair Burnett. May 6, 2014.

Brazil, the world's seventh largest economy and sixth most populous nation, is host to the 2014 World Cup and 2016 Olympics. The global focus highlights the nation's ongoing need to confront social challenges at home including deficits in infrastructure investment and development, suggests Alistair Burnett. Some critics suggest that Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff has neglected international responsibilities, including political crisis and protests in neighboring Venezuela, but her supporters point to the successful placement of Brazilians to head the World Trade Organization and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization, her steadfast criticism of the United States over intrusive surveillance, and Brazil's role in international groupings including the G20, BRICS and Mercosur. Burnett concludes that Brazil will continue its policy of social transformation and cooperative foreign policy through multilateral and diplomatic channels rather than intervention and hard power.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://yaleglobal.yale.edu/content/brazil-losing-global-momentum> [HTML format, various paging].

Item#9

Changes in the Arctic: Background and Issues for Congress. Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. Ronarld O'Rourke. April 28, 2014.

The diminishment of Arctic sea ice has led to increased human activities in the Arctic, and has heightened interest in, and concerns about, the region's future. The United States, by virtue of Alaska, is an Arctic country and has substantial interests in the region. On May 10, 2013, the Obama Administration released a national strategy document for the Arctic region. On January 30, 2014, the Obama Administration released an implementation plan for this strategy.

<http://www.fas.org/sgp/crs/misc/R41153.pdf> [PDF format, 124 pages, 1.43 MB].

Item#10

Midterm Election Indicators Daunting for Democrats. Pew Research Center for the People and the Press. May 5, 2014.

With the midterm elections six months away, Democrats are burdened by an uneven economic recovery and a stubbornly unpopular health care law. Perhaps equally important, Barack Obama's political

standing is in some respects weaker than it was at a comparable point in the 2010 campaign, which ended with the Republicans gaining a majority in the House.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.people-press.org/files/legacy-pdf/5-5-14%20Political%20Release.pdf> [PDF format, 43 pages, 824.12 KB].

Item#11

Public Health a Major Priority in African Nations. Pew research Global Attitudes Project. May 1, 2014.

Concerns about public health are widespread in sub-Saharan Africa, and there is considerable support in the region for making public health challenges a top national priority. In particular, people want their governments to improve the quality of hospitals and other health care facilities and deal with the problem of HIV/AIDS. The survey conducted in six African nations, also finds broad support for government efforts to address access to drinking water, access to prenatal care, hunger, infectious diseases, and child immunization.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

<http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2014/04/Pew-Research-Center-Public-Health-in-Africa-Report-FINAL-MAY-1-2014.pdf> [PDF format, 10 pages, 432.96 KB].

Item#12

Delivering Digital Infrastructure: Advancing the Internet Economy. World Economic Forum. April 28, 2014.

The report examines the current threats to digital infrastructure and suggests approaches and actions for addressing them before they affect the flow of information and services that serve the digital economy. Each chapter addresses a technological, commercial, policy or regional challenge that is of particular significance.

[Note: contains copyrighted material].

http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_TC_DeliveringDigitalInfrastructure_InternetEconomy_Report_2014.pdf [PDF format, 52 pages, 6.18 MB].